

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 1902.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History. President C. F. Groth in the chair with nine members and two visitors in attendance.

The minutes of the two previous meetings were read and approved.

Mr. Schaeffer in behalf of the committee presented the following resolutions on the death of our member Mr. Ottomar Dictz:

"WHEREAS the New York Entomological Society has learned with deep sorrow of the sudden death of its member, Mr. Ottomar Dictz, therefore be it

"Resolved that by his untimely and sudden departure this society records with the deepest regret the loss of one of its most enthusiastic and estimable members.

"Resolved that we sincerely mourn for the bright and genial companion and we wish to express our earnest tribute to a man who possessed the most honorable qualities of manhood.

"Resolved that the members of this society tender to the family of its late member their expression of sympathy in their grief, and express the hope that the inspiring memorial of his many virtues will afford consolation for their loss.

"Resolved that these resolutions be entered on our minutes, published in the Journal of the Society and the secretary be instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased."

Upon motion the resolutions were adopted.

Mr. Roy S. Richardson was elected an active member of the society.

Mr. Joutel exhibited specimens of all the described species and varieties of *Saperdas*, including *Saperda hornii* described in the February number of the Entomological News, and gave an account of the food-habits of all the described species. He also had some striking varieties of *Saperda lateralis* and mentioned the fact that they were in many collections confounded with *Saperda tridentata*. He stated that Dr. E. P. Felt and himself were working up the genus and had one and perhaps two new species to describe. The paper will be illustrated with six or more colored plates.

Mr. Schaeffer exhibited a species of *Cassida* taken in Suffern, N. J., by Dr. Love, and which he thinks will prove to be new. He said that it was very distinct from any of our species and only comparable with the European *Cassida nebulosa* which it resembles very much, but from which it differs in being smaller, entirely smooth thorax with only a few shallow punctures at base and having the seventh and eighth joint of the antennæ comparatively shorter. He further remarked that he has not seen *Cassida thoracica*, but the description of that species as given by Crotch does not agree with the insect, and he hopes to get a few specimens of *C. thoracica* to settle the matter finally.

Dr. Love exhibited a specimen of *Dicalus splendens* captured in Texas, showing a very much deformed posterior tarsus. Also a box containing an interesting lot of Mutillidae, consisting of twelve species, recently received from Dr. Kunze in Arizona.

Mr. Beutenmüller exhibited a box of Lepidoptera recently received from Mr. Polling. Among the material was a type specimen of *Megathymus ursus* from Arizona.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 1902.

Held at the residence of Mr. Herman Hug, 319 Hudson St., Hoboken, N. J. President C. F. Groth presiding, with eight members present.

In the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Weeks was appointed Secretary *pro tem*.

On motion the reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with.

Mr. Beutenmüller, of the Auditing Committee, reported progress.

Dr. Lagai, through Mr. Schaeffer, proposed as an active member Mr. E. R. Pearle Janvin, also Mr. Charles H. Sunderland, of Rutherford, N. J.

Mr. Beutenmüller proposed as members Mr. Herman Erb, of 322 E. 13th St., and Mr. Erich Lehsten, of 161 Washington St.

Mr. Barber, through Mr. Joutel, proposed the name of Prof. W. G. Johnson.

The death, on the 15th inst., of Mr. John Akhurst, of 78 Ashland Place, Brooklyn, a member of the Brooklyn Entomological Society, of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, the Smithsonian Institution and the Long Island Historical Society, and well known as an entomologist and taxidermist, having been announced, and due tribute to his knowledge and skill as a taxidermist and entomologist, as well as to his many kindly qualities of mind and heart having been given, the Secretary was directed to place upon the records of the society a minute of sincere regret of the members at his departure, as a token of their respect and consideration for his memory.

Mr. Beutenmüller having suggested the propriety of again holding an annual dinner, on motion of Dr. Love, Messrs. Palm and Beutenmüller were appointed a committee to confer as to the same and report thereon as speedily as convenient. On motion the meeting adjourned to inspect the excellent collection of Lepidoptera of Mr. Hug, among which was a fine specimen of *Pieris virginicensis* taken by himself on May 9, 1896, in Sullivan Co., N. Y.

MEETING OF MARCH 4, 1902.

A regular meeting was held at the American Museum of Natural History. President C. F. Groth in the chair, fifteen members and one corresponding member present.

Mr. Watson, of the Field Committee, reported on a plan for the coming season and recommended that the outing program of last season be followed this year. On motion of Mr. Palm, Mr. Watson's recommendation was adopted.

On account of business pressure Mr. Watson resigned from the Field Committee. The resignation was accepted with regret.

The following active members proposed at the last regular meeting were elected: Mr. Herman Erb, Mr. E. R. Janvrin, Prof. W. G. Johnson, Mr. Erich Lehsten, and Mr. Charles H. Sunderland.

On motion of Mr. Barber the society extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Hug for the kindness of his hospitality on the evening of February 18.

On motion of Mr. Joutel the society voted to extend appreciative recognition to Mr. W. Knaus for his donation of insects for the auction sale of the society.

Dr. Van Dyke was then called upon for a talk. His subject was "Notes upon the Buprestidae of California." He first mentioned the fact that all of the species of this family found within the limits of the State might easily be placed in one of two great groups: the first, to include those which were northern in origin and are dependent upon coniferous and deciduous trees, which for the most part are to be found only in the mountainous regions; and those which acknowledge the Sonoran regions as their home and are in consequence almost entirely confined to those sections where the fauna derived from this region is most in evidence. To the first belong such genera as *Chalcophora*, *Dicerca*, *Trachykele*, *Pocilonota*, *Buprestis*, *Melanophila*, *Anthaxia*, about half of the *Chrysobothris*, *Chrysophana* and part of *Agrilus*. To the second belong such genera as *Gyascutus*, *Hippomelas*, half of *Chrysobothris*, *Actenodes*, *Glyptoscelimorpha*, *Dystaxia*, *Schizopus*, *Polycesta*, *Acmaodera*, *Ptosina* and part of *Agrilus*.

He then took up the family, going over it genera by genera and giving comments and field experiences as he went along. Among other things he mentioned his belief that *Buprestis consularis*, *nuttalli*, *laeviventris*, *subornata* and *rusticorum* were all varieties of one species, and that the variety of *Buprestis gibbsii* with confluent marking was not only more common than the true form, but was more southern in distribution, probably had different food-habits and was in several other ways quite distinct from the other. As showing how numerous certain species were at certain times and places, he cited some of his collecting experiences. One June, while in Shasta Co., he collected great numbers of *Dicerca hornii*, *Pacilonota ferrea* and *Buprestis fasciata*, and its variety *langii*, simply by getting out early in the morning while the air was still crisp. The first two species he picked off of young alder trunks, the others off of the bright green poplar leaves. On another June vacation he took in Mendocino Co., within three days' time, many hundreds of *Melanophila drummondi* and its immaculate variety, simply by picking them off of the tents whither they had been attracted by the glare and some few boughs. They were scarce both before and after this period. On a fallen spruce trunk, on the sides of Mt. Wilson, in southern California, he took in a half hour's time about thirty specimens of *Dicerca californica* and about a dozen *Melanophila drummondi*, both rare in that section; and on the same day, by sweeping the flowers and the sides of the brush along the trail, he took eight species and a good deal over a hundred specimens of *Acmaodera*, within an hour's time. On another occasion, the 3d of July, while out collecting at Banning with Mr. Coquillett, there were

taken one specimen of *Hippomelas californicus*, a number of specimens of *Gyascutus oblitteratus*, forty or fifty *Acmaodera gibbula*, one or two *Chrysobothris mali*, many *Chrysobothris debilis*, and several hundred *Chrysobothris merckli*, the first on the wing, the second in flowers of mesquite and all of the rest by beating dead trees of the latter.

The doctor then gave a list of all the species found in the state of California.

The next paper was by Mr. J. R. de la Torre Bueno, "Notes on a Mole-cricket from Porto Rico." He exhibited specimens of the mole crickets sent to him by a correspondent in Porto Rico, who wrote as follows: "There is hereabout a worm whose technical name I do not know, called popularly 'changa.' It is a kind of winged and jumping cricket. As a general rule it lives below the surface and comes up only at times of great drouths. It feeds on the roots of plants, among them the sugar cane. But the unfortunate part is that the cane whose roots have been attacked by the insect loses its beautiful green and becomes a pale yellow. It also loses its sap to such a degree that it is given up, as it yields no juice when crushed. The cane is then said to be sick. This insect was unknown here twenty-five or thirty years ago, and it made its first appearance on lands fertilized with guano from Peru and it shortly took possession of such lands as had not been fertilized with guano. In the dry season the country people had the habit of making fires to burn the grass, and to these the crickets come by thousands."

Mr. Bueno sent some of his specimens to Dr. Howard and they were identified by Mr. Caudell as *Scapteriscus didactylus*. Mr. Caudell gave it as his opinion that they originated in Cuba.

Mr. Bueno said that he was inclined to believe that Mr. Caudell was right in ascribing its home as Cuba, as the Chincha Islands, from which Peruvian guano originally came, are barren rocks in the ocean, covered with the excreta of birds and absolutely devoid of vegetation. And as this insect is naturally a vegetable feeder it seems reasonable to suppose that it did not originate there. Moreover, the insect is popularly known in Porto Rico as "Cubano" or Cuban.

Discussed by Mr. Davis, who also exhibited a specimen from Porto Rico.

Mr. Zabriskie then spoke on "Some Species of Native Ear-wigs and Eggs of the American Katydid (*Microcentrum laurifolium*)."

He showed a collection of three of our species and made a few remarks on the habits and habitat of the forms shown. Most of them were collected on Sheffield Island, off the shore of Connecticut. Mr. Zabriskie stated that he believed ear-wigs were much commoner in the South and on the Pacific Coast than in the Eastern United States, where there were but some seven or eight species.

Dr. Van Dyke, in discussing the paper, said that he had not found ear-wigs at all common in California, with the possible exception of a single species which was common in southern California.

Mr. Joutel stated that he had found one large ear-wig, *A. maritima*, very common along the East River, under rubbish.*

* Also found along the Hudson River. W. B.

Mr. Schaeffer said that, on one occasion, he had found *Labia minor* very common at Mosholu.

Mr. Zabriskie also showed some specimens of the katydid (*Microcentrum laurifolium*) with egg clusters of the species and explained the manner in which they were deposited. He also stated that some twenty-five years ago the real katydid (*Cyrtophyllus concavus*) was very common in his neighborhood, but in recent years he had not seen or heard a single one.

Mr. Davis showed some immature walking-sticks which he had reared from eggs collected in Ansonia, Conn. The antics of the tiny animals as they tried to walk was an interesting sight.

Society adjourned.

MEETING OF MARCH 18, 1902.

Held at the residence of Mr. Gustave Beyer, 511 East 117th St. President Groth presided, eleven members and two visitors present.

Mr. Charles W. Leng, of 4 Fletcher St., N. Y., was proposed as an active member by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Beutenmüller, chairman of the Committee on the Annual Dinner, reported and considerable discussion followed.

Dr. Love moved that a canvass of the members present be taken, and if fifteen should indicate their desire to take tickets at \$1 a plate, the committee should arrange for the dinner before April 15. Carried.

A canvass resulting in the desired number, the committee were authorized to proceed with the arrangements.

Dr. Love moved that the committee be empowered to invite five guests at the expense of the society. Carried.

Mr. Joutel moved that, if the committee could make the necessary arrangements in time, the dinner should occur on April 1, the date of the next regular society meeting. Carried.

Society adjourned.

ANNUAL DINNER, APRIL 1, 1902.

The society held its regular annual dinner at the Hotel Endicott, corner of 82d St. and Columbus Ave. The following guests and members were present: as guests Dr. Edwin C. Van Dyke, Dr. Henry Skinner, Dr. W. J. Holland, Dr. E. P. Felt, Professor John B. Smith, Mr. E. B. Southwick, Mr. Ernest J. Munch, Mr. Chris. H. Roberts, Mr. J. D. Sherman, Mr. E. L. Graef and G. Englehardt, and members Messrs. Groth, Kearfott, Palm, Fillion, Riederer, Davis, Ditmars, Watson, Bremser, Kudlich, Leng, Joutel, Barber, Schaeffer, Beyer, Love, Sunderland, Green, Johnson, Weeks, Ottolengui and Beutenmüller.

MEETING OF APRIL 15, 1902.

Held at the American Museum of Natural History. President Groth in the chair with fourteen members and one visitor present.

A written report by Mr. Beutenmüller, of the Dinner Committee, was read and approved.

Mr. Chas. W. Leng was elected an active member of the society.

Mr. Joutel proposed Mr. E. B. Southwick, of 206 W. 83d St., as an active member. Mr. Leng proposed as active members Mr. C. H. Roberts,

of 74 West 119th St., and Mr. John D. Sherman, of 148 East 18th St. Mr. Beutenmüller proposed the name of Mr. E. L. Graef, of 58 Court St., Brooklyn, as an active member of the society.

In view of the resignation of Messrs. Watson and Comstock from the field committee, the president appointed Mr. Davis and Mr. Joutel to act in that capacity.

Mr. Seifert spoke on the subject of "The Larvæ of *Heliothis rhexia* and *Lygranthæcia rivulosa*." He stated that *Ambrosia artemisiæfolia* is a very common weed near New York city; according to the nature of the soil, the branches and leaves of the plant are subject to much variation in color. This latter may be said also of the more southern *Linaria canadensis*. *Ambrosia artemisiæfolia* is the food-plant of *Lygranthæcia rivulosa*. The larva feeds only on the sterile flowers of the long racemes from August to about the middle of September. The head of the larva is rather prominent, mandibles well developed, thoracic segments wider than the head, abdominal ones tapering slowly toward the anal end. The larva is not smooth, tubercles black, conspicuous; setæ weak; it adapts itself to all the color shades of the racemes, from purplish to brown and different shades of green. The caterpillar, when resting, often assumes a sphingid-larva-like attitude and singularly most obvious with the green varieties. They have short, oblique, lateral stripes running from anterior to posterior. The larvæ prefer sandy soil, burying themselves rather deep into the ground, forming a cell to pupate in. The moth appears in July and August.

The larvæ of *Heliothis rhexia* were found in numbers during April and May at Island Grove, Florida, feeding on the unripe capsules and the buds of *Linaria canadensis*. Females were found depositing eggs at the end of March and beginning of April, the imagoes being already on the wing the latter part of May and beginning of June. The larvæ also adapt themselves in regard to color to the slender, variable flowering stems; the sterile shoots being procumbent. The variability of the larva extends from green and brown shades to almost scarlet.

With some of the varieties of both species it is very difficult to distinguish the larvæ of both, even the heads of the larvæ varying in color with each species.

The larvæ of both these species are day feeders, the *L. rivulosa* larvæ being much subject to the attacks of dipterous parasites while the larvæ of *H. rhexia* are a coveted prey for a large blue-winged Hymenopteron and fierce Hemiptera, which are fairly swarming within the pinkish fields of *Linaria canadensis*.

Mr. Schaeffer spoke on "A Collection of Coleoptera made Last Year in Brownsville, Texas, by the late Ottomar Dietz." He said, although Mr. Dietz did not consider the material quantitatively or qualitatively as good as he expected, there are among the material quite a number of interesting species, some of which are entirely new to science, while others are described as only likely from that locality and others described from Mexico, but new to our list.

A small box of the more interesting forms was exhibited by him, amongst which were *Micraga cenea*, *Lebia biteniata*, *Cregya* probably sp. nov., *Catypus*, sp. nov.?, *Tyndaris*, sp. nov., *Rhabdoscelis*, sp. nov., *Mastogenius*, sp. nov., *Drapetes niger*, described by Dr. Horn in Biol. Cent. Amer., *Trichodesma*, sp. nov.?, *Trox*, sp. nov., *Eburia stigmatica*, *Tylosis oculata*, *Tetranodes*, sp., *Ibidion townsendi*, *Ibidion exclamationis*, *Priocera serraticollis*, *Ecyrus fasciatus*, *Diabratia peregrina*, *Polybria crux-rufa*, etc.

Mr. Leng showed a new color variety of *Cicindela sexguttata* which he said seemed to occur only at high altitudes.

Mr. O'Connor exhibited a number of moths and beetles which he had collected while on a short visit to Cuba recently.

Adjournment.